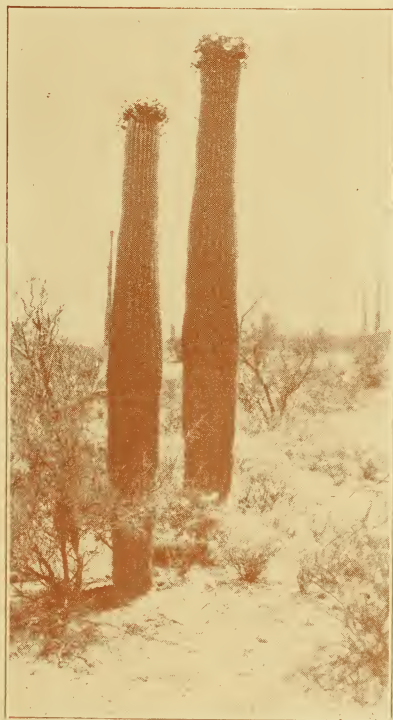


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TAG



California GARDEN



SUWARRO

**SEPTEMBER
1940**

Things that Crawl
Emily W. Clayton

A Rock Plant
Esther Clare Johnson

Garden Design
W. Allen Perry

The Bush-tit
Frank F. Gander

Gleanings
Ida Louise Bryant

Problems of the Soil
Robt. R. McLean

The Flower Show
Ada Perry

ROSES

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

Roland S. Hoyt, Editor

John D. Wimmer, Assoc. Editor

September, 1940

Vol. 31

No. 14 Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month.

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year; Membership \$1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, \$2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Building, Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Things That Crawl . . .

By E. W. CLAYTON

If it were not for the crawling creatures that inhabit gardens, and by this I do not mean gardeners, gardening would be pure pleasure and profit. The fertilizer and water that we sprinkle around to make things grow are minor investments that pay enormous floral dividends. The placid planting, cultivating, weeding that we do is restful and soothing. What hurts is the outlay and anguish of defense—the arsenal that must be laid in against the various fantasies of nature that exists only to destroy, like the Nazis.

Spring brings the aphids for the first fat rosebuds. Aphids can be depended upon to recur all during the blooming and tender growth periods of roses; also the new growth on shrubs as well as nasturtiums and stocks. They may be black, brown or green. They may be tiny or so big you can see the mean expression in their eyes. Usually the feminine gardener sees them when she is dressed for a wedding. Yesterday she sprayed contentedly, dripping with rotenone, nicotine or pyrethrum. Today, dripping with silver fox, she sprays with fury, poking gingerly at the worst colonies with a spray gun that promptly stops up.

Also among the first comers are the snails. They burgeon everywhere but most audibly munch on the first violas. For this little dumb animal friend we lug home enormous packages of poison bait containing

metalddehyde. The cool of the evening (and it may be very cool), is devoted to depositing spoonfuls of the bait at regular intervals, first daintily watering the ground with a watering pot. For snails are epicures who will have no bait from dry ground. For them it is, doubtless, steak on a cold plate.

What with regular bait deposits and unremitting hand picking of snails to be thrown down hard on bricks or cement, this problem gradually diminishes as the days get warmer and the nights dryer. This leaves you time to deal with new varieties of trouble and is known as Nature's balance. It is all that keeps gardeners from giving up.

So by the time the snails have ceased to pop under foot at every third step, it is time to begin watching for the brown spots in the lawn that indicate lawn moth. These pretty creatures fly over your lawn at night depositing eggs which grow into something unpopularly known as sod web worm. When the brown spots first appear you stake off your lawn so as to know how many square feet you are doing at a time. Then you mix up one of the preparations made just for this chum and go over the lawn foot by foot with a watering pot. This is to be sure of proper concentration. If you are allergic to ether on account of your last operation, it is just too bad. For twenty-four

hours the premises will smell like an operating room. And you may get to do it twice in one summer on account of the way the moths love family life.

This same time is likely to be that crucial moment in the life of brown scale when the microscopic inhabitant comes out from under to look at the world and die in a bath of whale oil soap, if the gardener is quick. This means that the gardenias and palms are drenched with the ill smelling emulsion. Hence our summer nights are less fragrant with night blooming jasmine than reeking with whale oil and ether.

Of course, at intervals during these major wars, there will have been skirmishes with grass hoppers or ants. However, as the grass hoppers can only be attacked by a quick hand and a pair of garden scissors, they add nothing to the arsenal. Ants are too much a part of our every day troubles to be specially allocated to the garden however fond they may be of brown scale and aphids. As for the mealy bugs, the wise gardener will have persuaded the County Horticultural Department to donate some lady bugs to play with them. Who got who will probably remain a mystery, but then who cares?

By now it is deep summer. There is nothing much for anything to eat in the garden and nothing, we hope, to eat the nothing that is there. A few petunias and geraniums are hardly choice enough for any worthwhile pest. It must be time for the pause that refreshes, only this one does not. Something

sinister is going on under cover—but where?

Then one day we raise our eyes to the poplars. We observe that the leaves are gone in places. In their stead are great masses of black, hairy, crawling things or filthy webs. The caterpillars have come, two months late and they make us sick. But definitely sick. Call up the power sprayer man. Beg him to come early and spray everything in sight. Stay in the house while the nasty things drop off, plop, plop, plop. You can spend the time planning what you will do about the thrips and red spiders. And if the aphids will only stay away maybe there will be time to strip the rusted rose leaves and do some sulphuring for mildew. At least these last two do not crawl.

—E. W. Clayton.

Rock Plant Superbe

Who among our readers is acquainted with the charming little plant, *Thomasia purpurea*? Does anyone own one, and if so, what success can you report?

Several years ago I made the acquaintance of *Thomasia* and for some time had it in stock. In the past I was able to get it through a Pasadena nursery, but for some years it has not been on their list, and their representative told me they had discontinued it, but gave no reason for so doing.

Last week the junior member and myself were browsing in a local nursery and he spied a rather abject specimen tucked away among odds and ends and brought it to me, not knowing what it was. The close resemblance of its tiny leaf to the foliage of *Ceanothus papillosus* Rowena aroused his interest, and while he was disappointed, I was delighted to get possession once more of an old favorite. In other years I made no effort to propagate the plant, but now I have a number of cuttings in sand and await results. I put them in with prayer and rootone, and the J. M. offered me odds of twenty-to-one they wouldn't "strike." However, I have hope.

The plant itself should come in

for a bit of description here and I can do no better than to quote from *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, the one book that is never far from my hand in the home or nursery.

"*Thomasia purpurea*, a low spreading cover, shrubby, for use with rocks; a plant that must prove of great value in the Southwest and California when its wants and dislikes have been isolated—probably favored in heat, dryish and drained soils, the sun and an alkaline reaction; the elongated roughened leaves lie flattened along the nearly prostrate stems and the tiny purplish flowers are scarcely to be seen, but do leave an impression of having peppered the plant thoroughly; the difficulty may be nothing more than acclimatization."

So the secret is out—the plant is difficult to handle, which doubtless explains its absence from those nurseries that formerly offered it. My reason for inquiring for owners of the plant is mainly to learn how it has been handled to insure its success, if any.

One thing I would add: I have never been able to think of the bloom as purple. Rather a lovely rose color, my memory tells me, with no suggestion of purple. I shall watch our recently acquired specimen with interest until its next blooming, after which I hope to know if I am a little color-blind or just have a poor memory.

In the meantime, who has a *Thomasia purpurea*, and how does it behave? We would like to know.

ESTHER CLARE JOHNSON.

La Mesa.

Garden Design

W. Allen Perry

(concludes remarks on layout)

I'm not going to say much about proportion because I think that we are all more sensitive to proportion than we are to scale and some other factors. If you feel that your garden, or a part of your garden, is cramped, it is probable that the width is not sufficient for the length of unit. After all, proportion is simply a pleasing or proper rela-

tionship of one part to another or to the whole. The Greeks were awfully rule-of-thumb in their Golden Rule Proportion wherein the length was one and one-half times the width. The only trouble is that the areas which you develop from that rule never fit numerous other areas, so I'd recommend it principally for Greek Temples. I think it's easier to approach proportion from a sense of — shall be say crowding? For instance, is a pool crowding a surrounding lawn back to the garden wall—is there a comfortable interval of lawn about the pool—or is the little pool lost in a great, big, enormous lawn?

Just as scale is a difficult factor, the element of "rhythm" in a design is quickly appreciated. We might express it as a recurrence of a uniform mass or color at a fixed interval. Think of a wall one hundred feet long with piers ten feet apart and these piers surmounted by an urn or a finial. Your eye is necessarily carried on in a rhythmic interval. Repetition is your great agent in achieving rhythm. Generally we like to progress from low elevations to high elevations in a rhythmic manner. A sudden break in rhythm is awkward if we provide no apparent justification for so doing. It is dramatic if we abruptly break rhythm for a line of view, or to center attention on a specimen tree or shrub, or to clearly define some architectural feature.

The next design element is "harmony." Perhaps we think of it most frequently in connection with color. Personally I think it is much more important in the consideration of the texture and habit of growth of plant material. A Spanish Broom and a *Dombeya* could hardly, by any stretch of the imagination, be called harmonious. But a *Genista monospermum* and an *Acacia pendula* seem entirely harmonious by reason of texture, color and habit of growth. Not that all material in our garden must droop, or be fastigate; not that there must be no greys with our greens. But the harmonious effect of this material in the same garden will necessitate a transition between them through the medium of material which grades in texture or grades in color.

Immediate juxtaposition brings us to the design element of "contrast."

Why don't you put your gilt furniture on Navajo rugs? Of course, there's too much contrast. Why put a Cinnabar vase in a dark or neutral corner? Because you feel a definite need of contrast. You have the same problem in your garden, the same need. Have you fulfilled a need when your Brilliant Hibiscus blooms against a dull, dark background, or have you unwittingly detracted attention from an intended center of interest or from the garden as a whole? Needless to say, contrast of size, of form, of habit or texture may be just as definite as that of color. Contrast is an element to use sparingly and to avoid judiciously.

We use these elements of which we have been speaking to achieve "balance." The simplest problem is a garden in which an axis is balanced symmetrically—an even distribution of mass and color on each side. Each cross axis must in turn be balanced itself and with the main axis. "Asymmetrical" or "occult" balance is frequently necessary wherein we balance mass with color or plant material with garden accessories.

I've purposely left color 'til the last because it generally attracts study and attention on its own, and because I am convinced that it gets attention at the expense of all other elements of garden design. Without a satisfying background and a comfortable foreground, color harmony is of no value anyway. Whereas it is vitally important in the limited scope of a flower arrangement, it is of much more remote concern in garden design. If gardeners would only give one-third the attention to scale, to harmony and balance that they give to color, we'd have infinitely better gardens. Anyway, color is a very personal element; some require lots of intense and flamboyant hues, while others like pastels used sparingly. I think that the washes of sunlight and shadow and the foil of green foliage cover up a multitude of color sins about which we worry far too much.

(Continued on Page 8)

Bird Parade—The Bush-tit

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

While hummingbirds may be called the fairies of bird-land, certainly Bush-tits are the elves—tiny fellows dressed in soft gray and with slightly brownish skullcaps. Scarcely larger than hummers they are, but with fluffier feathers and longer tails. And just as the Bush-tit's soft hues are far removed from the brilliant colors of hummingbirds, so in their actions, too, these elfin folks are just the opposite of the dynamic nectar sippers.

In the leafy seclusion of trees and bushes, small flocks or family groups of Bush-tits move along, flying a few inches from one twig to another, hanging upside down or perching with facility on the side of a branch, and occasionally daring to cross some open space between trees. Busy little birds they are, searching everywhere for aphids, scale insects, and similar small creatures that form the bulk of their diet. As they work, they keep up a conversational twittering, each one contributing with its tiny little voice. Let a hawk or other large bird fly over and a quality of alarm enters their calls. From all through the bushes comes the warning, but not a bird is to be seen. Each one is motionless behind a leaf or other protective screen.

For a little time in spring the flocks are broken up as mates are selected and the pairs engage in housekeeping. Usually in March the nests are started, and some little time is taken for their construction, for Bush-tits are master artisans and build exquisite homes. Long pendant structures they fashion from tiny fuzzy leaves and other downy plant materials felted together with spider webs and hung in the smaller branches of trees and bushes anywhere from two to 25 feet from the ground. When finished, the nest may be ten inches long or more, and entrance is through a tiny hole near the top.

Sometimes the outside is covered with yellow acacia bloom, and inside there is a bed of wee feath-

ers or other soft material where the six to eight white eggs are laid. Raising such large families, Bush-tits must have nests with high sides on them so that none of their many babies will fall out.

The stubby-tailed young, because of their minuteness when they leave the nest, are subject to hazards unknown to larger birds. Once while watching a family from a nest in a eugenia in my yard, I saw one of the babies fly into a large spider's web and hang there, unable to extricate itself. I took the bird from the spider's snare and after cleaning the webbing from its feathers released it. Other observers have reported similar incidents, so it seems quite likely that some young Bush-tits come to their death in this way.

By mid-summer the family groups have united in large flocks, and not until mating time in the following spring will these flocks be broken up again. Bush-tits in their extremely social nature are again the exact opposites of the strongly individualistic hummingbirds.

FRANK F. GANDER.

Soilless Gardening

Hydroponics has come to attract considerable attention in the horticultural world. It has not, for the time being at least, come to supplant the farmer. There is indication, however, that under specialized conditions or needs there will be here and there some practical application of the idea as adapted to gardening practices. An authoritative literature may save its becoming just another fad.

The complete Guide to Soilless Gardening by Dr. W. F. Gericke, Prentice-Hall Inc., 1940, \$2.75, would seem to be fundamentally sound and of a thoroughness to place it in this category. The book

(Continued on Page 8)

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

ASTERS

I read and enjoy every word of Ida Louise Bryant's column. These gleanings from the magazines, so generously sauced with her spicy comment, mean so much to me that I feel concern with her expressed confusion regarding asters. This is generally true with gardeners, but a few words should set them straight.

There are two classes, annual and perennial, both belonging to the great family *compositae*. Bailey says that the annual or China Aster came from China as a single species nearly 100 years ago. It has given our gardens some 300 variety forms to date. These varieties fall into well marked strains such as Comet or Crego or Giant-branching with strong stems and twisted or curled petals. Ostrich Plume has large, loose, feathery heads, very double like a chrysanthemum. Single varieties have only ray flowers and the pompons are miniature and profuse. This is the plant that is bought from a flat on the nursery bench for summer bedding and is known botanically as *Callistephus chinensis*.

Now the other type, known variously as Fall Aster, Michaelmas Daisy, Starwort or just plain Aster comes in many species from all over the world, particularly North America, and are nearly all perennial. This is known botanically as *Aster* and will normally be fall blooming although here in Southern California they may start with summer. They are of very vigorous growth in erect, slender stems which soon take over too much of a garden bed, and give too little in way of color for their full occupancy of the soil through the year. They are weedy and lack the refinement of the other type and will be grown normally in the rear of a coarse border or with wild-flowers. If Mrs. Bryant will go into the back country from now on into autumn, she will find a slender

local species 18-24 inches high, with purple flowers.

Botanically there is but slight differences between the two genera and the question of nomenclature was open until 1905 when the adoption of the Vienna Code settled the question for good. Linnaeus had given the China Aster its first name, *Aster chinensis*; Cassini described it under *Callistemma*. Later, Nees erected the genus *Callistephus* which is now quite generally accepted.—C. K. R.

FROM ENGLAND

To the Editor:

Your California Garden, received this week of June 11th, 1940, tells me Miss K. O. Sessions is at rest. Meeting her years ago at our London Garden Club, we became acquainted. She stayed here in Tregye, Devoran, Truro and saw two or three of the best gardens in Cornwall. I gave her an introduction to my lifelong friend, the late Mr. William Robinson of Gravetye Manor. He told me Miss Sessions impressed him very much (and us gardeners, perhaps more) by her thirst for accurate knowledge, her vitality, and her personality.

She told me, had she come over 25 years sooner, she would then, instead of later, have realized the importance, where space permitted, of massing and not dotting plants.

Yours faithfully,

Charlotte Rogers.

Daylilies

The little article on daylilies in the July issue of the California Garden has come to my attention. Perhaps readers in California may like to have a list of evergreen varieties available here. I have recently visited the gardens of Carl C. Tyler, 7901 Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys, where the following will be found. The list seems choice and long enough to fill our needs.

Amaryllis, Cinnabar, Florham, J.

A. Crawford, Luteola, Michado, Sir Michael Foster, Mrs. W. H. Wyman, Nocerensis, Queen of May, Royal, London, The Gem, Thunbergi, Vesta, Wauban.

LAURA M. SIKES,

La Jolla, Calif.

An extensive study of yellow daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) for garden purposes in the South has been made at the University of Florida. Results will be found in *Subtropical Gardening*, published in Orlando (the June issue).

SAN MATEO COUNTY FIESTA

That this year's San Mateo County Fiesta which will be held from September 19th to 22nd, inclusive, at Bay Meadows, will be the best to date there is no doubt. Its infinite variety and pretentiousness assures something of outstanding interest to all.

Floral art and flower arrangements of every description will reign supreme in the Club House for the four day period of the show. The leading commercial florists have planned to stage exquisite patriotic, outdoor and mythical scenes made entirely of flowers. The individual members of the numerous Garden Clubs are plying their artistic abilities toward producing unusual and unique arrangements which they will elaborately display in the Club House.

Two new fields of interest have been added to the ever increasing size of the show. The mezzanine floor of the Club House will be devoted entirely to photography enthusiasts. A contest is being conducted during these weeks preceding the opening of the Fiesta and pictures that have been taken during the past year are eligible to enter the competition. All photographs will be displayed and judged by well known judges versed on requirements of good pictures. Worthwhile prizes are also being awarded for the best pictures taken at the Fiesta.

On the first floor of the Club House will be found the new Hobby Section. Men, women, and clubs are planning to display their hobbies. It is always interesting to see

how some of our friends spend their leisure hours and it is often amazing what has been accomplished.

This year marks the tenth year that San Mateo County has assembled its floral and agricultural products for display. Many clubs, organizations, schools, communities and individuals as well as the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Fiesta will put on their "party" clothes in celebration of this annual event and it is their sincere invitation to come visit the Fiesta that is extended to each and everyone.

Torrey Pine

Albert Wilson tells us about the Torrey Pine in the April issue of *Madrono* as they grow throughout the gardens of the San Francisco peninsula. There in the deep rich soils, in fog and with more moisture than they get in their natural habitat they make trees that would scarcely be recognized here.

"One of the finest cultivated specimens in the state of California is a tree fifty years old. It is growing in excellent garden soil in an open area favored by sun all day and is situated about one hundred feet from a characteristic California creek—namely, one which has running water but a few months of the year. The tree is seventy-five feet tall and the total spread of the branch system is about one hundred five feet. The main branches are displayed in a tier-like arrangement with the lowest tier composed of four major branches. The largest of these is thirty-three inches in diameter at its junction with the main trunk of the tree. Above the lowest tier of branches is a second tier composed of three large branches. All of the branches extend upward, spreading in the broad, open habit characteristic of the Torrey pine. Very few cones are to be observed on the tree. The trunk is like that of a massive oak. The diameter, breast-high, is five feet six inches; at ground level, eight feet; fourteen feet above the ground the lowest tier of branches diverges from the trunk."

R. S.H.

Gleanings from the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

GARDEN GOSSIP, "recording the activities of gardening in the mid-south" is a good little 16 page magazine with "slick" paper, numerous cuts, and a gay cover page of giddy green, representing the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. In the July number Lester Rowntree of Carmel, evidently just returned from a pilgrimage through the mid-southern states, tells of common, ordinary wild things that she would combine in wild flower gardens. These are some of the things she recommends, and I wonder how many of them could be found within the boundaries of San Diego. I can't remember ever having seen one of them—a confession of shameful ignorance, probably, and not knowing them by either their botanical or common names makes the crime all the more heinous. 1, *Crataegus crus-galli*; 2, *Vaccinium stamineum* (the Bell-flowered Huckleberry; 3, *Maianthemum canadense* or Creeping Potentilla; 4, *Geranium maculatum* (the common wild Geranium that DOES bring a glimmering—the sweet heliotrope-like odor of crane's bill, in grassy open woods in Wisconsin; 5, what the author calls "the rather dumb white *Lychnis alba*, the common white campion" and lastly, *Gillenia trifoliata*, (Bowman's root- and *Anemone trifoliata*. Well, Mr. Kieran doubtless knows them all, could give their habitat and time of blooming. A name that has had me going around hissing it to myself the last few days, *Viper's Bugloss*!, was surely in his first illustrated ABC book.

An article on evergreen hedges names six varieties for different locations, and four of them are Yews; there isn't a blooming shrub among them, or a berried one, with the graceful arching branches that one sees so much in our informal plantings here. Perhaps in the strict meaning of the word a hedge means a rigid barrier; but the type

of shrub used between small homes, merely as a part of the decorative scheme, and not to set a firm, harsh boundary line, somehow seems more in keeping with Nature's free open-handedness. Where a hedge is used to give a wall effect for privacy in the garden, we'll allow formality to the nth degree; but where simple little homes separate their small lawns with anything except the floriferous *Abelia*, delicate *Nandina*, the *Escallonia*s, *Carissa* with its handsome blooms and bright fruits, *Diosma*, *Viburnum*, Dwarf *Pomegranate* or the numerous fine *Pyra-canthas*, we're agin 'em.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING, "devoted to horticulture in warm climates," published in Orlando, Florida, gives us in the August number an unusual number of very excellent articles. E. L. Lord, its editor, discusses *Gardenia* and simplifies, on paper at least, its culture. Besides the usual and more or less well known points, he stresses morning sun and the shallow root system which must not be disturbed—don't over-fertilize. He goes into specific and variety forms that are commonly known and speaks of the large single flowered species *G. thunbergia* which is new. This plant is hopeful for us in Southern California, as brought out in "Check Lists" and Mr. Lord develops the same reasoning as regards soil reaction. Our soils are almost universally alkaline and this *gardenia* will take a lot of lime and seem to like it. The writer saw this plant recently at the Tanner Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe and wishes more might be seen around experimentally.

And for anyone interested in the *Casuarinas*, that class of slender, pine-like trees found throughout these southern regions, look here for an understandable, exhaustive and authoritative treatment by Arthur S. Rhoads, plant pathologist of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. We name these trees commonly in divers and strange ways such as beefwood, she-oak, Australian-pine and South Sea ironwood. Here they are collected together in a picture that is clear as may be and find out about species,

their propagation, uses, exposure to water and wind, good points and failings—maybe we won't want to plant so many when through or will we only plant them more intelligently?

Kate O. Sessions

Many have died in California, yet none died with more honor than this woman whose career was dedicated to the task of making the world she lived in more beautiful, and of diffusing from one end of society to the other the best knowledge; a creed which was expressed during all the long years of her useful life in seeking to improve and perpetuate the essential form and mould of beauty so that life itself might thereby be more beautiful.

Those who remember her in her prime, as a vital, magnetic force, whose personality and influence was felt everywhere, and were saddened to watch her waning strength in her last days, marveled how her brave and indomitable spirit conquered her growing frailty and weariness.

Her life and achievements need no reviewing here; they speak for themselves, and are seen on every hand in the city and park of San Diego, where on all sides her handiwork shows; the flowery streets and ways of that town will forever bear mute and eloquent testimony to the love she bore it, and to her passion for making it more lovely; the gardens there will be forever bright and fragrant with her memory.

We like to believe that long after she and her contemporaries have played their part, and have passed from off life's stage, and that 'tho she herself has gone, never to return, the pleasant parks and gardens of San Diego in which she so rejoiced, will, year after year, as they bud and blossom, serve to keep her memory green.

"Only the actions of the just

Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust."

—Hugh Evans.

Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Passion Fruit

Question: Kindly tell me under what conditions I can grow passion fruit. In other words, what are the soil, water and climatic requirements?—J. S. L.

Answer: Passion fruit requires, for its best development, a deep, well drained soil. Sufficient water should be given to keep the plants in good condition. No exact information can be furnished as to just how much water is necessary, as this varies very definitely with the soil, and total amount of winter rainfall from year to year. The vines will withstand light frosts, that is, of not more than 2 or 3 degrees, after they are well grown, but young plants will suffer severely at low temperatures. Another thing to be considered in planting passion fruits is that they should not be placed where they are exposed to strong winds. In order that no mistake may be made, do not plant where several degrees of frost are common during the winter and if possible plant in a rather protected situation if strong winds in your locality are occasionally felt.

DODDER OR LOVE VINE

Question: Below our house is a gully or ravine in which grow many native plants. During the summer and fall some of the shrubs are covered with a yellowish vine. The tops of a number are dead, supposedly choked out by the vine. Will you please advise me what this vine is and what can be done to eradicate it? —W. G.

Answer: The description fits that of dodder or so-called love vine. Dodder is quite common in the summer and fall on the native growth on hillsides and creek bottoms or ravines. It is a leafless parasitic plant having small, inconspicuous, white flowers and seeds very much like those of alfalfa, in which it is quite often an impurity. In the spring dodder germinates from seeds that have fallen to the

ground. The yellowish threads twist and twine around any shrub or other plant they come in contact with and finally penetrate the bark of the host. When firmly established in the plant attacked, the lower part attached to the ground shrivels and dies and from then on the dodder vine gets its nourishment from its host. Although dodder is an annual on annual plants, it is more or less of a perennial on perennial shrubs, as sage brush, sumach or laurel, etc. In such cases the parasite grows rapidly during the summer and after flowering and seeding, remains more or less dormant until spring or early summer when new threads develop and new areas are invaded. Added to this, additional threads come from the seeds that have fallen to the ground and the process is repeated and intensified until the shrub begins to die.

There is no very definite method of control other than to cut out and burn infected parts of the bushes in the summer before the parasite seeds, and keep the young seedling dodder plants cut off at the ground as they germinate. Obviously this treatment is somewhat difficult and probably would not be worth while except in the case of lightly attacked specimen plants.

SPRAY FOR ROSES

Question: My roses are showing some mildew and rust and as I don't want to mar the foliage and blooms, I cannot use either Bordeaux mixture or lime-sulphur. Is there not something else that will help correct these troubles and at the same time not spoil the appearance of the foliage and flowers? —E. J.

Answer: Ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate contains no sediment and leaves practically no marks on the plant. It is fairly effective as a fungicide and is the best thing to use where spotting the foliage is to be avoided. To make 8 gallons of spray material, one

ounce of copper carbonate and one-half pint of ammonia are necessary. The larger part of the copper carbonate required by this formula is dissolved in diluted ammonia (dilute ammonia with water to about five times its volume) using only enough ammonia to dissolve the copper carbonate. Then add the balance of the copper carbonate which was reserved. This is for the purpose of insuring the use of no more ammonia than is absolutely necessary. Add balance of water and agitate thoroughly.

OAK MOTHS

Question: Two years ago our oak trees were defoliated almost completely by worms. They were bare of leaves for a long while, but finally the leaves came back and no more worms appeared. I have heard that this occasionally happens to live oak trees here, but if this is so what becomes of the worms in the meantime? I had never seen them before and I have been here about ten years. I am just interested to know more about them.

—Mrs. J. H. F.

Answer: The writer's experience in San Diego county covers a period of but 25 years and during this time, to his knowledge at least, no other heavy infestation of the California oak moth has occurred. Old-timers say, however, that at irregular intervals we may expect just this sort of thing, and that it has happened many times before. The oak moth is quite generally present and sometimes injuriously so, in the cooler coast section, as in the San Francisco bay region and parts of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. There is always a certain amount of it present there and it apparently does not become very injurious except at intervals. The oak moths are very heavily parasitized when they are abundant, besides which a number of predators may be expected to reduce their numbers. If weather conditions are favorable and their enemies have been reduced in numbers, oak moths seem to build up quite rapidly. When they first invaded this county, about three

(Continued on Page 8)

The Flower Show . . .

By ADA PERRY

The early date of the flower show for fall seemed no disadvantage this year . . . I haven't asked the committees because they just do the work . . . Please laugh lightly, committees . . . Anyway the flowers looked clean and vigorous and well shown . . . It seems to me the commercial exhibitors displayed with excellent taste this year . . . And we appreciate previews of new plants and gadgets — and garden furniture . . . No, kind local department store, we do not mention names in these reviews because of an aversion to hot water, especially in August . . . But the garden furniture exhibit was most suitable . . . It couldn't help but give people ideas, too,—nice ones . . . I've got one right here for next year, namely: that dichondra-introducing nursery and department store co-exhibit lawn swing on mat of this new lawn plant which grows in sun and shade . . . Name is pronounced dye-kon-dra, with accent in middle.

Did you notice that extra-large soft blue Achimenes, the lath house plant . . . And did that exhibit of Rexes on the south wall impress you as being composed of remarkably large, clean, and well kept plants . . . I still don't know who it belonged to . . . And why don't more people plant annual phlox and pompon zinnias together in their gardens and not leave that pair of lovelies to a flower show exhibit exclusively . . . Well, do it next year, then . . . It's never too late to reform . . . I liked those purple aster and yellow marigold bouquets dedicated to the American Legion . . . What's more American than a bouquet of those flowers . . . I mean cross-roads, homey America—wait a minute, that's no campaign speech!! Let them as are good at politics have it.

That birds in garden corner for which the Natural History Museum contributed was an enjoyable novelty. There were other novelties in the show, by the way . . . Just as enjoyable . . . Going back to the

bird corner for a second, why aren't more garden wells filled with gloxinias and white campanulas and achimenes . . . "Achim" is getting a good play in this review . . . Does any one remember Bret Harte's Ah Sid? . . . Well, spell it yourself if you think that's wrong . . . Will go on to say that other luscious summer flowers such as double day lilies, gerberas, petunias, Royal Hawaiian ginger, tithonias, golden plume flower and Klondyke cosmos were beautiful . . . And please, I'm awfully sorry my hat touched that fine orchid plant when I was leaning down to smell the green rose . . . I knew it was no use smelling the orchid and that little gherkin of a rose didn't even smell of dill . . . Don't take this adversely, green rose grower . . . I'm really dying to be invited out to learn more about it.

The park display of rare plants in arranged bouquets was very intriguing, thank you . . . I wondered about the winter sweet . . . How strange the fire red bromelia should have a white kid glove bloom stalk—with little lavender buttons of flowers.

Some very nice succulents in the show—they were on par with the fine Rexes . . . When it comes to the set tables, I believe again, I'm going to rave about the commercial exhibitors, the Florists . . . The Madams who arrange tables know I think they're good . . . And this time the Florists were unusually clever . . . Mmm, those bronze and red dahlias and zinnias with orange tiger lilies! . . . And didn't you like seeing blue lace flower with blue delphiniums and golden alstroemerias . . . Surely we can grow these last lilies . . . But we mostly don't.

Let us speak of dahlias briefly, now. They spoke very well for themselves, professionally grown, and what is called amateur with no depreciation in the dahlias . . . Think we all envy the lady to whom a fine display was dedicated . . .

One well-known professional has a new salmon-pink seedling, another a water-lily lavender and so on . . . Dahlias need a chapter to themselves.

Dear me, I'm neglecting the arrangements . . . But what more is there to say than that this town could give lessons in that art . . . The arrangers here are top-notch . . . One particular lady seemed to have a fascination for me . . . I'd ponder over that "stunner" beginning with a column spray of columner Hollywood juniper and then go on to others and find the same lady had attracted again . . . But there were others . . . Shucks, I can't begin to do them justice . . . And besides there's that mystery-exhibitor of very artistic gourds . . . Has sense enough to do them in mellow, mild colors, but she didn't tell anybody her name that I could find out . . . Oh well, don't use names anyway . . . The exhibit of rock garden plants was good and people who had time to study it were lucky . . . Thanks for readin' and come in on the garden gate Friday mornings at 10:15, KGB, and let me thank you for listenin' . . . (I'm no Kate Smith, but I try).

Sincerely, Ada Perry.

Garden Design

(Continued from Page 3)

We might sum this discussion up by repeating that in garden design we are working toward a unified area in which we are able, with privacy, to extend our scope of living among the beautiful elements of plant material. And in our designing we are concerned with the importance of careful planning which recognizes the value of scale, the comfort and satisfaction of good proportion, the selection of good plant and architectural material, an adequate color, and a balance of all these factors.

Don't think garden design's a lot of hocus-pocus, and don't feel that it's an art too fine or too involved. If you will only approach it with the same consideration that you plan and furnish your homes; if you will recognize the many par-

allels between your house arrangement and your garden arrangement; then, with the realization of garden functions and limitations, your designing abilities will measure up with your horticultural abilities.

W. Allen Perry,
Director of Parks,
San Diego, California

Soilless Gardening

(Continued from Page 3)

shows restraint in the sense that little if any appeal is made to the faddist. In fact, only first principles are stressed and these facts — not fancies—are largely based on the long experimentation and other studies of the author.

This first-hand information and its method of presentation should be of value in part to the average gardener who works in soil. This is because of pertinent and little discussed material on such subjects as nutrition, the influence of stock on scion, the classification of root structures and the bearing on garden technique. These things do not often find a place in garden books.

One begins to wonder, as a gardener, whether this newly revived science won't actually find a place with us in time. Consider the cut-flower garden, its altogether utilitarian purpose, its messiness and, above all, the difficulty of finding an out of the way place that will be suitable from the standpoint of culture. Annuals, bulbs, tubers, perennials and even gardenias may be grown this way. A few tanks and simple formulae and we have flowers—many of them for very little space.—R. S. H.

Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 7)

years ago, it was during a very cool summer. The following summer was cool also and favorable to the development of the pests. They appeared in very large numbers that spring, but before the fall brood could arrive and do more

damage, their enemies had caught up with them. This is why they disappeared almost as suddenly as they came. Presumably there are always a few oak moths in the country but until a combination of two or three very cool summers and a lack of natural enemies come together we quite probably will not have another scourge of them.

Snapdragon Rust

Question: My snapdragons developed quite a little rust. Is there any remedy for rusting snapdragons. Sometimes the disease can be checked or prevented from becoming very serious if the plants are irrigated and fertilized freely to stimulate growth, but in seasons favorable to rust this may have little if any effect. New types or strains of snapdragons have been developed that are practically, if not entirely, rustproof and as these rustproof forms are now available in a number of colors and shades, it is advised that they be used instead of the old forms. Any reliable seed house will carry rust-proof seed.

Answer: There is no really satisfactory remedy for rusting snapdragons. Sometimes the disease can be checked or prevented from becoming very serious if the plants are irrigated and fertilized freely to stimulate growth, but in seasons favorable to rust this may have little if any effect. New types or strains of snapdragons have been developed that are practically, if not entirely, rustproof and as these rustproof forms are now available in a number of colors and shades, it is advised that they be used instead of the old forms. Any reliable seed house will carry rust-proof seed.

"Gardening for Fun in California," is another book to amuse as well as inform. By Jean-Marie Consigny (Mrs. George Palmer Putnam) this tells what a mid-westerner learned about garden planning, soil conditioning and lawns, shrubs, trees, and flowers in California. Light, chatty and in a very personal manner Miss Consigny gives varied and useful information for the gardener who knows how and the new gardener who is asking how. She says gardening is fun and work and here in California we need never remark "I wish you could have seen our garden last month!" In California's unique country of flowers your garden can be always alive with bloom—and no "between seasons."

The book is now available at the San Diego Public Library.

MARGARET FOLLIICK.

GARDEN HISTORY

Fifty-six volumes of "The Garden Magazine," founded and for twenty-eight years conducted by William Robinson of London, are owned by the San Diego Floral Association, and have been placed in the San Diego Library, in the reference room in the building across the street from the library proper.

Volume I is interesting to us today. It includes December 1871 to June 1872, six numbers, and was dedicated to the memory of John Claudius Loudon, author of "Arboreum Botanic" and many other works which have tended to ennoble the art of gardening.

The following articles and topics are of particular interest:

The first illustrated article concerns "The Foolishness Which Rock-work Displays. These detestable examples illustrated will serve to show what childish and stupid notions of rock-gardening

have existed up to this present time, and how much more pleasure will be experienced if the truer and simpler way of making a rock garden is generally adopted."

Notes on roses, by Dean Hole. —He was the rose authority of that time.

A very fine illustration of the Yellow Pine, *Pinus ponderosa*; also *Picea amabilis*, the Silver Fir, native in the Yosemite Valley of California.

A full page illustration of the Grizzly Giant Tree of the Mariposa Grove, Calif., thirty-three feet in diameter and over 200 years old. Also interesting notes on the persons living when it was a young tree.

Begonias were noted as fine for fall and winter flowers, when others were scarce.

Wigandia macrophylla, from the mountains of New Granada. Planted in London sixty-four years ago, its foliage proved a great surprise.

With us today a fine planting is conspicuous on the grounds of the Army and Navy Academy at Pacific Beach.

Cedrus deodora, a pair of California mountain quail, the cactus *Cereus gigantea* mentioned as resembling fossil trees, all are very well illustrated.

An article on *Luculia gratissima*, called the most beautiful conservatory plant, with notes on its culture. This plant of today is conspicuously described by Mr. Hugh Evans of Santa Monica, who specializes in new and rare plants for Southern California.

The first six volumes have no colored illustrations, but the seventh has a few, including our pretty snowflake, *Leucojum vernum*. Volume VIII has only three plates, but Volume IX contains one of *Calochortus venusta*, our Mariposa lily so common about San Diego. All the other volumes have a very fine colored illustration, one in each monthly issue. Each volume is dedicated to an important horticulturist.

Members of the Floral Association might look through a volume at their casual opportunity and write short articles on the plants and facts that will be of interest and value to California garden readers of today. It is interesting to note how long ago, fifty or more years, many plants we now call new and rare were then known, observed, and cultivated by the horticulturists of Europe. So many of our plants could not be generally grown in the open in those countries, while we here can enjoy them and show them to the world. San Diego county has a great horticultural opportunity before it.

(Ed. Note — This article with notes in her handwriting was found among the papers of Miss K. O. Sessions and turned over to Mrs. Mary Greer.)

As announced last month, all the magazines on our exchange list are available for circulation at the Main Library; they will be found among circulating publications on the shelf Miss Plaister has given us especially for garden magazines.

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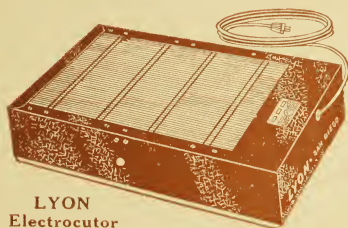
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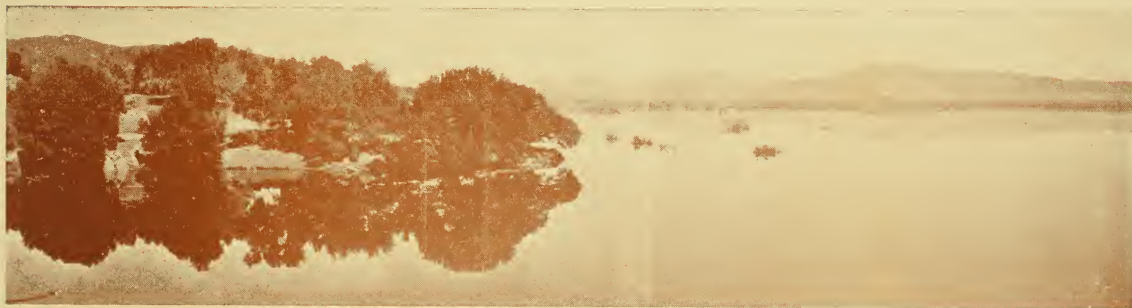
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